

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) Process for the continuous production of metal strip (1), preferably cold-rolled strip and especially high-grade steel strip, where the strip (1) to be produced is guided in the transport direction (R) through a system (2), in which the strip (1) is subjected to a rolling process, to a heating process, and to a chemical treatment, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rolling process is conducted only after the strip has been heated and chemically treated.
2. (Currently Amended) Process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the heating of the strip (1), the chemical treatment of the strip (1), and the rolling process are conducted in that order.
3. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~Claim 1 or Claim 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the rolling process is a tandem rolling process.
4. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1-3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the strip (1) is subjected to a significant reduction, preferably by at least 20%.

5. (Currently Amended) Process according to ~~one of Claims 1-4,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein the chemical treatment
is a pickling process.
6. (Currently Amended) System (2) for the continuous production of
metal strip (1), preferably cold-rolled strip and especially
high-grade steel strip, specifically for the implementation of
the process according to ~~one of Claims 1-5,~~ Claim 1, where the
strip (1) to be produced passes through the system (2) in the
transport direction (R), and where the system (2) has an
installation (3) for heating the strip (1), an installation (4)
for chemically treating the strip (1), and an installation (5)
for rolling the strip (1), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the
installation (5) for rolling the strip (1) is located
downstream, with respect to the transport direction (R), of the
installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and of the
installation (4) for chemically treating the strip, and in that
the installation (5) for rolling the strip (2) has a tandem
rolling mill (5a, 5b, 5c).

7. (Currently Amended) System according to Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rolling stands (5a, 5b, 5c) are designed as a multi-roll cold-rolling mill with a 6-high or Z-high roll arrangement.
8. (Currently Amended) System according to ~~Claim 6 or Claim 7,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 6, wherein the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1) is a pickling installation.
9. (Currently Amended) System according to ~~one of Claims 6-8,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 6, wherein a stretcher-leveling unit (6) is located between the installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1).
10. (Currently Amended) System according to ~~one of Claims 6-9,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ Claim 6, wherein a metal grain shot-blasting unit (7) is located between the installation (3) for heating the strip (1) and the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip (1).

11. (Currently Amended) System according to ~~one of Claims 6-10,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 6, wherein a trimmer unit (8) is
installed downstream, with respect to the transport direction
(R), of the installation (4) for chemically treating the strip
(1).
12. (Currently Amended) System according to ~~one of Claims 6-11,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 6, wherein a degreasing
installation (12) is installed upstream, with respect to the
transport direction (R), of the installation (3) for heating
the strip (1).